



Map of Strathbogie (as Huntly then was) in 1750, the key features that still define it today can be seen; the rivers, castle & avenue, the change in level and central square.

The lie of the land...

While today it stands in ruins, Huntly Castle has shaped how the town has grown, with its avenue leading south forming the key artery of which the town's characteristic grid layout is set around.



This above aerial photo looking south in 1950 shows a growing town next to openspace with only some development beyond farmland. Over the following fifty years new schools, sports facilities and houses expanded northwards



Much of the land in the north of Huntly is open greenspace, whether woodland, grass, meadows or wetland providing sources of food or shelter for threatened species like red squirrel or swifts.



Modern developments have brought new unique activities, such as roller-skiing at Huntly Nordic Outdoor Centre.

When looking at developments there are possible restrictions that need to be considered:

While a significant flood alleviation scheme was completed in 2017, a risk still remains (blue areas outlined by dashed line). What this means in practice is that development that can be permitted is restricted. The key concerns regarding flood risks are: safe means of escape should a flooding event occur, displacement of water by any new development that increase the severity of flooding overall (think how the level of water rises when you get in a bath) and debris being carried downstream which then impedes the flow of water.

Huntly Castle and the tree-lined avenue that approaches it from the south are scheduled monuments of national significance (red shaded area). It illustrates the development of Scottish castle design on one site over five centuries, from the 12th century to the 17th, and the final incorporation around 1800 of the ruined structure into sections of the designed landscape around it (e.g. the Simpson Building or the Castle Hotel (formerly Huntly Lodge). This places the Castle and its Avenue under the protection of Heritage Environment Scotland. They have a statutory duty to ensure that any development in its vicinity either respects, embraces or enhances the historic environment of the Castle.

A large area of the more urban Huntly are part of the Town Centre Conservation Area (area outlined in red dotted line), administered by Aberdeenshire Council. First designated in 1973, and extended to cover a wider area in 2013. The measures of the conservation seek to preserve original architectural detailing, set down standards for repair and enhancement works and encouraging sensitive new developments.

